

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A toothed transmission belt, comprising a metal core coated with elastomer material, wherein said metal core comprises at least two mutually parallel and spaced apart metal strips, substantially coplanar to each other, arranged in the longitudinal direction of the belt, and a plurality of metal cross-members, distributed according to a constant pitch in the longitudinal direction of the belt, each of which is rigidly and directly connected ~~the two to both~~ metal strips ~~to each other~~ and each of which ~~whereof~~ constitutes the core of a respective tooth of the toothed belt.

2. (original) A toothed transmission belt as claimed in claim 1, wherein each cross-member of the aforesaid metal core, and consequently each tooth of the toothed transmission belt has a trapeze-shaped cross section.

3. (original) A toothed transmission belt as claimed in claim 2, wherein each cross member of the metal core is constituted by a solid section metal bar.

4. (original) A toothed transmission belt as claimed in claim 1, wherein each cross member is constituted by a hollow section bar obtained by a bending operation, starting from a metal sheet.

5. (currently amended): A toothed transmission belt as claimed in claim ~~3~~ 4, wherein the metal sheet constituting each cross member has slots traversed by the aforesaid metal strips.

6. (original) A toothed transmission belt as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cross members are welded to the two metal strips.

7. (original) A toothed transmission belt as claimed in claim 2, wherein each cross member of the metal core and consequently each tooth of the toothed transmission belt has a trapeze-shaped cross-section also in a plane that is orthogonal to the longitudinal direction of the belt, with the end surface of each tooth positioned in mutually converging inclined planes.

8. (original) A toothed transmission belt as claimed in claim 1, wherein the toothed surface of the belt has a layer of adhesion-proof coating over the rubber coating.

9. (previously presented): Belt transmission device comprising a toothed transmission belt as claimed in claim 1 and a gear wheel meshing with said toothed belt, wherein said wheel has a plurality of peripheral teeth alternating with cavities and two end flanges which constitute the ends of the cavities.

10. (original) A belt transmission device as claimed in claim 9, wherein said end flanges of the gear wheel have a circumferential distribution of windows corresponding to the ends of the cavities between the teeth of the gear wheel, to prevent a contact between the inner surfaces of said flanges and the end surfaces of the teeth of the toothed transmission belt.

11. (original) A method for manufacturing a toothed belt according to claim 1, wherein the two parallel and spaced apart metal strips are caused to advance continuously by unrolling them from two feeding reels, said metal cross-members are connected in sequence to the metal strips while the strips are proceeding forward, by feeding the cross-members from a cross-member supplier, and the metal core obtained thereby is coated with a layer of elastomer material while said core is advancing.

12. (new): A toothed transmission belt as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said metal cross-members has a cross-section whose shape defines the shape of the cross-section of

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the respective tooth, said elastomer material constituting a coating applied on the outer surface of  
said metal cross-members.